

St Gregory's Church Castlemorton WR13 6BQ

NEWS 1 January 2023

Dear Friends

Many Anglicans have reflected on the richness of the Christian tradition, and on how many different forms of spirituality there are. Some agree that it is possible, indeed desirable, to hold them all together, provided the focus is on Christ, rather than on promoting the practices of any one tradition as an end in itself. Sadly, an intolerance of differences can sometimes lead to bigotry, hostility and occasionally violence.

Exploring some of the different ways in which we may encounter the reality of Jesus Christ, not merely as a credal statement to be acknowledged and recited, but as a living person to be experienced, is a fascinating project. It seems particularly important to acknowledge this diversity as we enter Lent, a time for special reflection and openness to the Spirit of God. In the Anglican Church today, where mission is being re-emphasised, it is vital to have some understanding of the variety of ways in which God reaches out to people and touches their lives. In many ways, God is a great pragmatist – he uses what he can get hold of – and he sometimes reveals himself in unpredictable and startling ways.

- The magi found Christ in astrology – a somewhat surprising and unlikely place we might think – but God was pleased to speak to them in terms they could understand.
- Elijah found the Lord, not in an earthquake or wind or fire, but in a gentle whisper.
- Cleopas and his companion found Christ in a fellow traveller they did not at first recognise but whom they found strangely compelling as their conversation unfolded.

If we were to ask people today how they had encountered Christ, we would undoubtedly be amazed by the variety of responses: a seemingly chance reading of a verse of Scripture, the ministry of a close friend, a special church service, an experience of suffering, the birth of a child, a quest for truth, deliverance from addiction, a Christian Basics course, an evangelistic mission… Similarly, the experience of coming to faith, and growing in faith, varies enormously from person to person, ranging from sudden, radical commitments that can be dated and timed, to very gradual, almost imperceptible, changes of heart and mind that are nonetheless real and radical.

Yours sincerely

Chris Moss

The Revd Christopher Moss

Diary Dates

Services across the Benefice

Sunday	22 January	10.30am	Family Communion	Queenhill
Sunday	29 January	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	Castlemorton
Sunday	5 February	10.30am	Family Communion	Longdon
Sunday	12 February	10.30am	Family Communion *	Castlemorton
Friday	17 February	2.30pm	Castlemorton Primary School Gold Book Assembly Parents welcome	Castlemorton
Sunday	19 February	10.30am	Family Communion	Bushley
Wednesday	22 February	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	Queenhill
Sunday	26 February	10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion Kaleidoscope (a more relaxed service with modern worship songs)	Queenhill Castlemorton
Sunday	5 March	10.30am	Family Communion	Longdon
Sunday	12 March	10.30am	Family Service with Baptism*	Castlemorton
Sunday	19 March	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	Bushley
Sunday	26 March	10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Queenhill Castlemorton

*Refreshments served after the service

All are welcome to join us at any of the above services. All churches have a child friendly policy and St Gregory's offers activities for children to enjoy during the morning services.

St Gregory's Church Register

Sunday 11 December	Baptism	Daisy Joy GRAHAM, born 23 May 2022, daughter of Alan Graham and Rachel Hands of Droitwich Spa
Thursday 15 December	Funeral Service and Committal at Church of The Good Shepherd, Hook Bank	Joyce Mary STURDEE of Yew Tree House, Castlemorton, who died Wednesday 16 November 2022, aged 86 years
Wednesday 21 December	Burial of Ashes at Hook Church	Joyce Mary STURDEE
Tuesday 20 December	Funeral Service and Committal at St Gregory's	Ronald James BEDFORD of Glebe Cottage, Castlemorton, who died Thursday 8 December 2022, aged 91 years

Other Events

Sunday	22 January	7.00pm	MLG Bach Cantatas	Queenhill
Sunday	29 January	7.45pm	MLG Bach Cantatas	Castlemorton
Thursday	2 February	7.00pm	MLG Bach Cantatas	Castlemorton
Saturday	4 February	10.00am	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Sunday	5 February	7.00pm	MLG Bach Cantatas	Longdon
Sunday	12 February	7.00pm	MLG Bach Cantatas	Castlemorton
Sunday	19 February	7.00pm	MLG Bach Cantatas	Bushley
Sunday	26 February	7.45pm	MLG Film - Bach Pilgrimage	Castlemorton
Tuesday	28 February	7.30pm	Lent Course 1	TBC
Saturday	4 March	10.00am	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Thursday	9 March	7.30pm	Lent Course 2	TBC
Tuesday	14 March	7.30pm	Lent Course 3	TBC
Thursday	23 March	7.30pm	Lent Course 4	TBC
Sunday	26 March	7.45pm	MLG Film – A Passionate Life	Castlemorton
Tuesday	28 March	7.30pm	Lent Course 5	TBC

CaCoffany!

A monthly coffee morning with the chance to sing uplifting hymns and listen to guest musicians



10.00 Singing favourite hymns
10.20 Guest musicians
10.30 Singing favourite hymns
10.50 Coffee, cake and chat

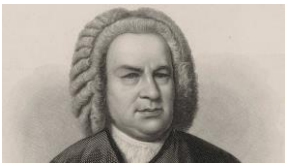
No experience needed – just come and sing or simply enjoy the coffee and delicious cakes!

Email Sarah with your requests for the programme
sjmusgrave33@gmail.com

No admission charge -
proceeds from Bring and Buy stall support maintenance of our lovely church.
Donations appreciated

MLG

Monteverdi Listening Group



The Bach Cantata Pilgrimage of 2000 is revisited in these sessions as we listen to Bach Cantatas recorded by the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists directed by John Eliot Gardiner. The cantatas were performed on the liturgical feasts for which they were composed, in a year-long musical pilgrimage across Europe, ending in New York.

Wine and nibbles served during the interval.

These wonderful cantatas are best listened to in an ecclesiastical setting.
All welcome

LENT COURSE 2023

New Atheists v. Christianity: What's the Score?

Is God 'a delusion', a 'failed hypothesis', an 'outdated myth'?
The new atheists think so.

In this five session Lent Course, we shall discuss the new atheist assault against religion; what are their arguments and tactics, and will Christianity crumble? - or rekindle?

There's no need to formally prepare for this course but having a leaf through the source text - *What's so Great about Christianity?* by Dinesh D'Souza - would bring this important subject alive. It's available for less than a fiver in good second-hand condition on eBay. You do not have to attend all five sessions, as each discussion will stand alone – come and join us for a fascinating and illuminating evening.

Tues 28 February/Thurs 9 March /Tues 14 March/Thurs 23 March/Tues 28 March
7.00 for 7.30pm, with light refreshment, venue TBC.

Parish news

Our best wishes to **Dorothy Bartlett** who, after a spell in hospital, is now back home and pleased to see visitors in the afternoon. To assist please give a phone call first.

Our sympathies with **Joan Bedford** and family following the death last month of her husband Ron. Family and friends came together at St Gregory's Church for the funeral service to share their memories which celebrated his long life and concluded with refreshments.

Our condolences also with the family of **Phyllis Jones** who died last month. Phyllis and her late husband Emrys were former tenants of Ruells Farm.

Our congratulations to **Alice Howick and Michael Stevens**, who were married on New Year's Eve in Australia. Our best wishes to the couple and to Cecily who, with members of the family, was able to join them in Melbourne to share in this special occasion.

Warm Spaces and Activities available in Malvern

Somers Park Methodist Church	Tuesdays	10.00-12.00	Toast and Tea
Malvern Baptist Church	Wednesdays	10.00-12.00	Coffee Stop
Holy Trinity Church	Thursdays	10.00-12.00	Coffee Morning
Elim Church, Cowleigh Road	Thursdays	10.00-3.00	Warm Space
All Saints Church	Thursdays	10.00-11.30	Toddlers
St Andrew's Church	Fridays	9.30-11.00	Toddlers
St Mary's Church, Pickersleigh	Fridays	9.00-12.00	Community Café
Malvern Evangelical Church	Mondays	2.00-4.00	Warm Space
	Thursdays	9.30-12.30	Warm Space
Great Malvern Priory	Every day	9.00-4.45	Priory Open
	Saturdays	10.00-12.00	Just a Cuppa